

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-18, and 20-23 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 17 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the Final Official Action of September 14, 2005, Claims 1, 5-9, 13-17, 20-23, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,188, herein “Ishii”); and Claims 2, 10, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of Newman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,600, herein “Newman”).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1, 5-9, 13-17, 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 state novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by Ishii.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an effect applying device including a display for displaying various types of information and a means for displaying effect specifying information which specifies effects for images in a preset arrangement on the display. A selecting means is also provided for selecting desired effect specifying information from the effect specifying information displayed on the display, and the selected effect specifying information is then applied to input images.

Amended independent Claim 1 also recites, *inter alia*, displaying

the arrangement of said effect specifying information in plural lines, and

the arrangement of said effect specifying information includes a first arrangement for specifying short-term effects which can be applied for specified time, and a second arrangement for

¹ e.g., specification, Fig. 12.

specifying continuous effects which can be continuously applied, and

when said first arrangement for specifying short-term effects is selected only a short-term effect area is active and a continuous effect setting area is inactive and not able to be selected.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 recite substantially similar features, therefore the arguments presented below also apply to these claims.

An exemplary, non-limiting, embodiment of the claimed user interface is shown, for example, at Fig 12, reference numerals 110A-110C. The interface includes a “single-shot” effect setting area (112) and continuous effect setting area (113), which are simultaneously displayed. As depicted at reference numeral 110A, when the user chooses to apply a short-term effect (111), the continuous effect setting area (113) is subjected to a net-covering processing to prevent short-term effects from being added to the continuous effect setting area (113).

The Advisory Action dated December 30, 2005, cites Fig. 33 of Ishii and asserts that the user row of effects is a configurable row in which the user selects, with an input device, the effects from the effect patterns and drags and drops the effects into the slots 1-10. The Advisory Action also asserts that in Ishii, the user is allowed to specify the duration of the effect by selecting from a predetermined set of frames or using a slide or quick select buttons to set any duration they desire which can be a continuous number of frames. Thus, as asserted in the Advisory Action, and supported by col. 59-60 of Ishii, a user selects any of the available effects (e.g., wipe, page turn, etc.) and is able to pick and choose, without limitation, the effect that is applied to a given user slot. Specifically, Ishii describes that the effects available for selection, and the slots available for assignment, are displayed using the same arrangement regardless of the intended duration of time of the selected effect.

In contrast, independent Claim 1 recites *when said first arrangement for specifying short-term effects is selected only a short-term effect area is active and a continuous effect setting area is inactive and not able to be selected*. As discussed above, Ishii fails to teach or suggest the above-noted claimed feature. Instead, as noted above, Ishii fails to teach or suggest that the display of the available effects setting areas are differentiated in any way based on a selection of “long-term” or “continuous” effects (all of the effects can be equally applied to each slot).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn. For substantially the same reasons as given with respect to Claim 1, Applicants also respectfully submit that independent Claims 9 and 17 patentably define over Ishii.

In response to the rejection of Claims 2, 10, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Ishii fails to teach or suggest the above differentiated features recited in independent Claim 1. Likewise, Newman fails to remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references neither alone nor in combination, teach nor suggest Applicants’ Claims 2, 10, 11 or 18, which include the above distinguished feature by virtue of independent recitation or dependency. Therefore, the Official Action does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to any of these claims.

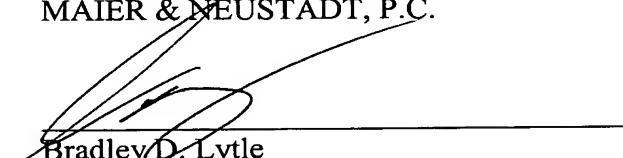
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 2, 10, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13-18, and 20-23 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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